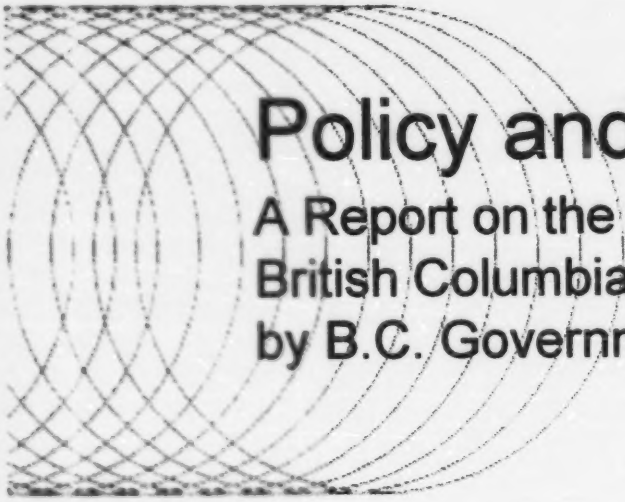

Policy and Practice -

A Report on the Use of British Columbia's Health Goals by B.C. Government Ministries

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Policy and Practice

for

A Report on the Use of
British Columbia's Health Goals
by B.C. Government Ministries

A Report from the Provincial Health Officer

January 2001

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January 2001

Summary

In March 1998, the British Columbia government announced the approval of new health goals for the province. The goals were intended to define the province's vision for a healthy population and to provide a framework for action to improve health and quality of life for all people who live and work in British Columbia.

The Provincial Health Officer plays a key role in promoting and monitoring the goals, as part of the legislated mandate to monitor and report on the health of British Columbians. However, the health goals are not just goals for the Provincial Health Officer, the Ministry of Health, or the health care system. Rather, the goals belong to everyone – all levels of government, the corporate, business, and non-profit sectors, and the community at large.

This report assesses the use of the health goals by B.C. government ministries in the year 2000. This report was prepared by the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and was based on three readily-available sources of information: the *Budget 2000* speech, ministry performance plans for the year 2000/2001, and examples of initiatives that support the goals submitted by 13 ministries.

Results show that health goals concepts are widely used in government. Health is a central theme in ministry plans, and the term *healthy* is used in relation to families, communities, organizations, the economy, and the environment. All ministries have mandates that contribute to achieving the provincial health goals, and there are many health-promoting activities under way.

In the documents we reviewed, there were few direct references to British Columbia's health goals. The vision, principles, and analysis that led to health goals development are evident, but so far, the goals have not been fully adopted or applied as an explicit template for government planning. We hope that this report will help to bring the goals back onto the provincial stage.

Health Goals for British Columbia

In 1991, the B.C. Royal Commission on Health Care and Costs recommended that government enunciate specific health goals for the province, along with a method to assess and report on progress. In developing its recommendations, the Commission adopted a broad definition of health: "a state of physical, mental, and social well-being" (British Columbia Royal Commission on Health Care and Costs, 1991).

In July 1997, the provincial government approved *Health Goals for British Columbia*, a document that sets out six provincial goals, 44 specific objectives[1], and more than 150 examples of indicators for measuring progress. The goals go beyond health services and encompass the many factors known to influence a person's health and well-being. These "determinants of health" include how we live and work (goal 1), our individual capacities, skills, and choices (goal 2), our physical environment (goal 3), and the system of health services available to us (goal 4). The importance of healthy child development (objective 2.1), Aboriginal health (goal 5), and disease and injury prevention (goal 6) are also recognized.

Time Line - Health Goals for British Columbia

1991	Royal Commission recommends that health goals be developed
1993	Government commits to develop goals
1994	Provincial Health Officer asked to lead process
1994-96	Goals developed through consultation
1997	Cabinet approves *Health Goals for British Columbia*
1998	Goals announced
1999	Provincial Health Officer issues *Report on the Use of Provincial Health Goals in Regional Health Service Plans*
2000	Provincial Health Officer issues *Annual Report 1999*, the first report to assess progress towards achievement of health goals

[1]The 6 goals and 44 objectives are listed in Appendix I.

The Provincial Health Officer plays a key role in promoting the goals and in monitoring and reporting on progress towards their achievement. The multi-sectoral *Advisory Committee on Health Goals for British Columbia* supports this work by providing leadership, strategic direction, and collaborative action to help realize the goals.

Use of B.C.'s Health Goals

Although the goals were developed under the guidance of the Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Health, the health goals belong to everyone – all levels of government, the corporate, business, and non-profit sectors, and the community at large.

The health goals were intended to provide a vision for the future – a vision as to how we can achieve better health for ourselves, our communities, and the province as a whole. The goals were also intended to be a practical tool for taking action on the factors that affect the health of the population. *Health Goals for British Columbia* puts it this way:

> *The most significant way you can use these health goals, objectives, and indicators is to integrate them into your policy and program planning, resource allocation, and monitoring systems* (*Health Goals for British Columbia*, p. 9)

This report takes a look at the use of the health goals by B.C. government ministries in the year 2000. The purpose of this report is to draw attention to the goals and to identify opportunities for moving the goals forward as a tool for government planning.

Progress on the achievement of the goals themselves is the subject of the *Provincial Health Officer's Annual Report 1999*, released in November 2000.

Method

Three approaches were used to assess the use of the health goals by B.C. government ministries in the year 2000. Using readily available information, we gauged the extent to which British Columbia's health goals were considered in (1) provincial government priorities, (2) ministry performance plans, and (3) ministry projects and strategic initiatives.

Government Priorities

Provincial government priorities for the year 2000 were obtained from Treasury Board's *Guidelines for Business Plans 2000/2001* and from the *Budget Speech* delivered in the Legislative Assembly March 27, 2000.

Ministry Performance Plans

In February 2000, Treasury Board requested that all B.C. government ministries develop business plans for the next fiscal year. *Guidelines for Business Plans 2000/2001* specified that plans were to include ministry goals, objectives, performance measures, and expected results. Ministry goals were also to be linked to government priorities (B.C. Treasury Board, 2000).

For this review, performance plans were obtained from each ministry's web site. The 20 plans[2] were reviewed for references to the provincial health goals, using a check-list adapted from a 1999 review of regional health service plans (Kendall, 1999). Analysis was carried out by the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and was based solely on the language used in the performance plans.

[2]21 performance plans were obtained, and these included separate plans for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Fisheries. In March 2000, these two ministries were brought together under one minister and given the title Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. To reflect the new umbrella, the two plans were considered together in our analysis. Thus, text and tables in this report refer to a total of 20, rather than 21, performance plans.

Ministry Projects and Initiatives

In February 2000, the Provincial Health Officer contacted the ministries that sit on the Deputy Ministers' Committee on Social Policy and selected other ministries that had direct health goals involvement to solicit examples of programs, projects, or strategic initiatives pertaining to the goals. Eight ministries submitted examples at that time, and these were compiled and reviewed.

In December 2000, all ministries were given an opportunity to provide comments on the first draft of this report. Comments received as of January 18, 2001 were incorporated into the final product. In their feedback on the draft, several ministries provided additional examples of programs and projects that support the goals. The list of programs, projects, and initiatives was expanded to include examples from a total of 13 ministries (Appendix III).

Findings: Use of B.C.'s Health Goals

Government Priorities

According to *Guidelines for Business Plans 2000/2001*, there were four government priorities in the year 2000: education, health care, family and communities, and a stronger economy for British Columbia (B.C. Treasury Board, 2000). In their performance plans, nine ministries identified a fifth government priority – protecting the environment.

The *Budget 2000* speech focussed on "a new, modern direction for the economy." Specific actions highlighted in the speech were targeted tax cuts, promoting an innovative economy, initiating the Green Economy Secretariat, and strengthening services in education, health care, and child care support for working families.

The priorities of the provincial government, as expressed in performance plan guidelines and in the Budget speech, fit well with the provincial health goals (Table 1). A thriving and sustainable economy, adequate incomes, supports for children and families, learning opportunities, a sustainable environment, and a quality health care system are key factors in achieving a healthy population, and efforts directed towards these should contribute to achieving the health goals.

Goal 6, Disease and Injury Prevention, is not specifically addressed in government's stated priorities or in the Budget speech, although the Budget speech mentions the need to "reduce costs by preventing illness."

Table ①

Connection between Provincial Health Goals and Government Priorities

Positive and supportive living and working conditions in all our communities.	• Stronger economy for B.C. • Family and communities	• Targeted tax cuts • Building an innovation economy • Childcare support for working families
Opportunities for all individuals to develop and maintain the capacities and skills needed to thrive and meet life's challenges and to make choices that enhance health.	• Education	• Investing in education
A diverse and sustainable physical environment with clean, healthy and safe air, water and land.	• Protecting the environment	• Green Economy
An effective and efficient health service system that provides equitable access to appropriate services.	• Health care	• Strengthening health care
Improved health for Aboriginal peoples.		• Treaty negotiations
Reduction of preventable illness, injuries, disabilities and premature deaths.		

[1]*Health Goals for British Columbia*, approved by Cabinet in July 1997 and announced in March 1998.
[2]Government priorities, as stated in ministry performance plans for 2000/2001.
[3]Budget Speech, delivered in the Legislative Assembly March 27, 2000.

Ministry Performance Plans

Twenty ministry performance plans were reviewed for references to the provincial health goals and their underlying concepts. Highlights are presented here in point form. Results in table format may be found in Appendix II.

Conceptual Use

- All ministries (except Finance[3]) have vision and/or mission statements that reflect health goals concepts, that is, a broad definition of health and a recognition of its determinants and inter-relationships. Three examples are:

  Mission: The purpose of the British Columbia school system is to enable all learners to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy, democratic and pluralistic society and a prosperous and sustainable economy. (Ministry of Education)

  Vision: An environment that is naturally diverse and healthy, and enriches peoples lives. This vision statement recognizes the intrinsic value of a naturally diverse and healthy environment, along with the benefits to society than can be derived from it ... Sound environmental stewardship is a societal goal which complements other goals in our society. (Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks)

  Vision: The health of all British Columbians will be actively promoted and protected through healthy social, economic and physical environments. (Ministry of Health)

[3]The vision and mission statements of the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations focus on the provision of quality financial services. In the introduction to their performance plan, Finance notes that it provides indirect support to government's health care, education, and economic priorities.

- Most (18) of the ministries' vision, mission, and values statements focus on achieving positive and supportive living and working conditions (provincial health goal 1). Individual skills and choices (goal 2) and the physical environment (goal 3) are mentioned in about one-third of the vision/mission statements.

- Sustainability is a common theme in ministry performance plans. Whether the ministry's focus is social, environmental, or economic, more often than not sustainability is identified as a critical factor. Sustainability is also a theme in the provincial health goals; there are specific objectives related to a sustainable economy (objective 1.1), sustainable food supply (3.3), and long-term sustainability of natural ecosystems (objective 3.6).

- Another common theme in ministry mission and values statements is the health of families and communities. Healthy communities are seen as an important social and economic factor, and this is referenced repeatedly in performance plans including those of the ministries of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Children and Families; Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers; Multiculturalism and Immigration; Municipal Affairs; Small Business, Tourism, and Culture; Social Development and Economic Security; and Women's Equality.

- Only two ministries, Children and Families and Health, explicitly reference the provincial health goals in their performance plans.

  The Ministry for Children and Families plan includes a performance measure on the number of regions with plans that reflect an "integrated and health goals approach." The Ministry of Health has a specific objective to "use the provincial health goals to stimulate social, environmental, and economic actions to improve health in the broadest sense."

- "Link to Government Priorities," a required component of the 2000/2001 performance plans, provided an opportunity to make direct connections between ministry activities and health outcomes. Some examples are:

  Research shows the higher the level of education people have, the better their level of mental and physical health. (Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology)

  Improved First Nations economic activity has a positive impact on health status. (Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs)

  When British Columbians have access to quality child care, basic health services, safe and affordable housing and enhanced labour market opportunities, their economic security is improved – a key determinant of health. (Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security)

  Enhanced education and skill levels are positively correlated with increased independence, reduced reliance on social assistance, reduced dependence on the health care system, reduced levels of crime, increased job opportunities, higher future earnings, and overall economic growth. (Ministry of Education)

  A healthy, safe work environment and harmonious relationships between employers and employees can contribute to well-functioning, productive workplaces which can reduce stress and positively affect the overall health of workers and their families. (Ministry of Labour)

  The ministry's risk management programs ... encourage industry self-reliance ... prevent disease transmission to humans from animal and plant products, and maximize the quality and safety of B.C.'s animals and crop products. When financial and other risks are minimized, families and communities can make plans and take action to determine and improve their own future over the long-term. (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)

Policy and Program Use

- All ministries (except Finance) have at least one outcome-oriented objective, performance measure, or activity that can be aligned with the provincial health goals.

- Not surprisingly, the objectives and strategies in a ministry's performance plan reflect the principal business of that ministry. For example, the physical environment (goal 3) is emphasized in the performance plans of the ministries of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Energy and Mines; Environment, Lands and Parks; Forests; and Transportation and Highways.

- Program objectives and expected outcomes often extend beyond a ministry's first-line business, to consider other societal goals. Eighteen of the 20 performance plans have program objectives that relate to more than one health goal, and 15 have objectives that align with three or more goals (see Appendix Table II.2).

- Program goals, objectives, and performance measures pertaining to improvements in living and working conditions (goal 1) were the most frequent. Some examples are shown in Table 2 on the following page.

- After health goal 1, health goals 2, 3, 5, and 6 were the best represented. The Ministries of Health and Women's Equality were the only ministries with specific objectives and performance measures related to the health services system (goal 4).

- Under health goal 6, there are objectives for 16 major health problems that can be prevented or reduced. Of the 16 health issues, unintentional (accidental) injuries received the most attention in ministry performance plans; eight ministries had specific objectives or targets for reducing injuries.

Table ②

Examples of Ministry Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures Related to Provincial Health Goal 1

• Develop aquaculture to provide opportunities for economic development in coast communities, including First Nations (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries) • Economic diversification in rural, resource and coastal communities (Ministry of Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers) • Reduce the number of jobs at risk and preserve those jobs that are at risk (Ministry of Employment and Investment)	Goal 1, objective 1: Improve and maintain equitable opportunities for employment by expanding the diversity of the economy and ensuring the sustainability of economic activity.
• Advocate for the removal of barriers to training, employment and career advancement for women (Ministry of Women's Equality) • Increase immigrant access to professions and trades (Ministry of Multiculturalism and Immigration)	Goal 1, objective 2: Reduce the concentration of marginalized and disadvantaged groups in lower paying and lower status jobs and increase social recognition and valuing of jobs at all levels.
• Enhance community safety and the public's sense of security; reduce the level of serious crime; protect the community from high-risk and violent offenders (Ministry of Attorney General) • In cooperation with the recreation and sport community, develop tools to address the growing incidence of violence in sport (Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture)	Goal 1, objective 9: Increase the safety and security of communities throughout BC, including ... reduced crime and interpersonal violence.
• Build healthy communities by investing in opportunities for increased participation in arts, cultural, sport and recreation activities ... (Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture)	Goal 1, objective 10: Increase opportunities to develop positive and supportive interpersonal relationships and social networks, including access to organized and informal community-based sports, recreation, social, arts and cultural activities ...
• Improve access to and support for adequate, affordable and appropriate housing (Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security)	Goal 1, objective 12: Increase access to affordable housing that meets household needs ...

Table ③

Examples of Ministry Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures Related to Provincial Health Goals 2–6

• Reduce school-related alcohol/drug use (Ministry of Education) • Reduce tobacco use and, in particular, protect young people from tobacco (Ministry of Health) • Reduce substance abuse by children, youth, and adults (Ministry for Children and Families)	Goal 2, objective 4: Improve and maintain individual capacity and supports for making healthy lifestyle choices ... by increasing the percentage of British Columbians who do not smoke; reducing the percentage who use alcohol or drugs inappropriately or excessively ...
• Protect long-term soil productivity (Ministry of Forests) • Protect and improve the quality of B.C.'s land (Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks)	Goal 3, objective 4: Improve and maintain the quality of land and soil across British Columbia.
• Influence women's health policy and ensure safe access to reproductive choice (Ministry of Women's Equality)	Goal 4, objective 3: Improve access to [health] services that have been proven cost-effective...
• Strengthen and focus Aboriginal education initiatives. Desired outcome: decrease performance differences, with a long-term outcome of parity (Ministry of Education) • Increase First Nations access to economic opportunity. Target: Increase Aboriginal participation in mining by 10 per cent (Ministry of Energy and Mines)	Goal 5, socio-economic indicators: education, employment, and income levels (Aboriginal peoples compared to general population).
• Fewer vehicle-related injuries and fatalities (Ministry of Attorney General) • Fewer accidents on farms (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries) • Reduction in incident/accident rates related to the construction and operation of building and plant engineering systems as well as railway and aerial tramway systems (Ministry of Municipal Affairs) • Reduce the level of highway injuries and fatalities (per 100 million vehicle kilometres traveled) (Ministry of Transportation and Highways)	Goal 6, objective 9: Reduce unintentional injuries and premature deaths.

Ministry Initiatives

Thirteen ministries submitted specific examples of programs, projects, or strategic initiatives that relate to the health goals (see Appendix III for a list of submissions).

Health Goals for British Columbia includes a Working Guide that lists several ways in which organizations can use the health goals, objectives, and indicators. From the material submitted by ministries, we have selected examples that illustrate four of the uses envisioned for the goals:

1. adopt the goals as a framework for planning;
2. initiate collaborative action on one or more of the objectives;
3. develop new programs or policies to achieve an objective; and,
4. use the goals to measure and report on progress.

1 Adopt the Goals as a Framework for Planning

Example: *Health Goals for British Columbia Women*
http://www.hlth.gov.bc.ca/whb/

The first work of its kind, *Health Goals for British Columbia Women* builds on the provincial health goals by directly adapting them to a specific population – women.

In 1999, the Women's Health Bureau of the Ministry of Health initiated a planning process to adapt the provincial health goals specifically to women's health. Participants were given three tasks:

- to adapt the objectives under the six health goals to reflect women's health issues;
- to identify what needs to be done in British Columbia to meet these new objectives; and,
- to give examples of programs that are addressing these issues on a local or regional level.

Health Goals for British Columbia Women, published in the year 2000, can be adopted as a planning framework by women-serving organizations. It can also be used as a menu from which ideas for action can be selected. In the same fashion, the provincial health goals could be used to develop a planning framework for any region or population group, e.g., seniors, children, Aboriginal people.

❷ Initiate Collaborative Action on One or More Objectives

Example: *Feed Our Future – Secure Our Health*
http://www.hlth.gov.bc.ca/prevent/nutrition.html

The provincial government's response to *Feed Our Future – Secure Our Health* illustrates how ministries are working together to address a diverse and complex issue – nutritional health. The topic of nutritional health spans several of the provincial health objectives.

In January 1998, the British Columbia Heart Health Coalition submitted *Feed Our Future – Secure Our Health* to various ministries within the provincial government. *Feed Our Future* presents 29 specific recommendations for government action on nutrition behaviour and skills, nutrition services, food supply, food access, and one umbrella recommendation on the development of a provincial food policy.

The *Provincial Response To Feed Our Future – Secure Our Health* was developed by the Ministry of Health in consultation with the ministries of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Advanced Education, Training and Technology; Children and Families; Social Development and Economic Security; Education; and Women's Equality. The response addressed each of the 29 recommendations and highlighted inter-ministerial work on some key food and nutrition policy areas including breastfeeding, healthy body image, and food safety. It also established an inter-ministerial working group to explore the formation of a provincial food policy committee and a more coordinated approach to food and nutrition policies and programs.

In presenting to the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries, the Ministry of Health used the opportunity to promote the *Health Goals for British Columbia* as a framework for the development of healthy public policy. The provincial health goals include several objectives that complement those in *Feed Our Future*. For example, there are provincial health objectives to encourage healthy eating and regular physical activity, to reduce heart disease and other nutrition-related chronic illnesses, and to ensure a safe, nutritious, and sustainable food supply.

Because *Feed Our Future* is consistent with provincial health goals, the goals helped to validate *Feed Our Future*'s recommendations in terms of their capacity to improve health.

❸ Develop New Programs or Policies to Achieve an Objective

Example: *Green Economy Initiative*
http://www.gov.bc.ca/ges/

Documentation about the *Green Economy Initiative* does not specifically reference the provincial health goals. However, this initiative directly addresses two health goals: Goal 1 and its specific objective to create a more diverse and sustainable economy, and Goal 3, a diverse and sustainable physical environment.

The provincial government created the Green Economy Initiative to:

- help B.C. businesses succeed in today's greener global economy;
- support B.C. communities in their transition towards a more sustainable economy and a cleaner environment; and,
- motivate British Columbians to incorporate environmental values into their daily lives.

The *Green Economy Initiative* is a good example of a determinants of health approach. The Initiative addresses economic growth, environmental sustainability, and community health, using a multi-level partnership approach that includes government, industry, communities, and individuals. Information about Green Economy projects is available from the Green Economy Secretariat, http://www.gov.bc.ca/ges/.

❹ Use the Goals to Measure and Report on Progress

Example: *Environmental Trends in British Columbia 2000*
http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/sppl/soerpt/

Environmental Trends in British Columbia 2000 is the second environmental indicators report produced by the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. This report establishes British Columbia as a leader in the development and presentation of environmental indicators.

Environmental Trends presents fifteen key indicators that describe:

- the state of British Columbia's environment;
- progress towards environmental goals, targets, and other commitments;
- important links between environmental, economic, health, and social issues; and,
- actions being taken to respond to environmental challenges.

The Provincial Health Officer has adopted five of the *Environmental Trends* indicators for use in monitoring and reporting on achievement of the provincial health goals. In the coming year, the State of Environment Reporting Office and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer will continue to collaborate on ways to measure and communicate issues related to sustainability of the physical environment and their connection to human health.

Conclusions

❶ Health goals concepts have been adopted by government.

Based on their performance plans for 2000/2001, most B.C. government ministries have adopted health goals concepts, that is, a broad definition of health and a recognition of the many and inter-related factors that influence the health of individuals and communities.

The concept of health has been generalized well beyond an individual's physical state, and it has become commonplace in government to use the term *healthy* in relation to families, communities, organizations, the economy, and the environment. The health "language" in ministry plans is consistent with the population health approach that underlies the provincial health goals.

❷ All ministries have mandates that contribute to achieving British Columbia's health goals.

All ministries have vision, mission, or values statements that can be connected to at least one of the six provincial health goals.

❸ There are many health-promoting activities under way.

All ministries have at least one concrete objective, performance measure, or set of activities that can be clearly linked to British Columbia's health goals. Thirteen ministries were able to provide specific examples of programs, projects, or initiatives that support the goals.

❹ So far, the health goals themselves have not been widely used in government.

In the documents we reviewed, we found few direct references to the provincial health goals. The vision, principles, and analysis that led to health goals development are evident in government plans and policies, but the goals themselves have not been widely used as an explicit framework.

This report is based on only three sources of information: the Budget speech, ministry performance plans for the year 2000/2001, and examples of health goals-related activities submitted by ministries. It is quite possible that the goals have been used more extensively in other ministry activities. Furthermore, ministries tend to employ a technical, operational language in their performance plans. This is in keeping with the increasing expectation for specific and accountable measures of performance and may explain why the documents reviewed contain few explicit references to health goals. However, based on this review, we must conclude that to date the goals have not fulfilled their intended purpose – to provide a provincial vision for a healthy population, along with a practical tool for action.

❺ More work is needed to fully adopt and implement health goals in British Columbia.

Government ownership of and commitment to the health goals are essential, if the goals are to act as originally intended, that is, as a policy template to influence provincial policies, programs and services, and ultimately, the health of the population. We hope that this report will call attention to the goals and the need for a renewed government commitment to their use.

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Appendix I
British Columbia's Health Goals and Objectives

Mission: To maintain and improve the health of British Columbians by enhancing quality of life and minimizing inequalities in health status.

Goal 1: Positive and supportive living and working conditions in all our communities.

Objective 1.1: Improve and maintain equitable opportunities for employment for British Columbians, by expanding the diversity of the economy and ensuring the sustainability of economic activity.

Objective 1.2: Reduce the concentration of marginalized and disadvantaged groups in lower paying and lower status jobs, and increase social recognition and valuing of jobs at all levels.

Objective 1.3: Reduce the impact of job loss on individuals and communities, for example, through effective industrial adjustment strategies and re-training initiatives.

Objective 1.4: Increase participation in decision-making and reasonable control over work tasks for all types of workers.

Objective 1.5: Improve and maintain quality of life in the workplace, including:

- protection from physical hazards and freedom from harassment;
- policies and supports to help balance work and family responsibilities; and,
- supports for workers with disabilities, chronic illnesses, or other special needs.

Objective 1.6: Improve and maintain appropriate supports and protection for workers in non-standard employment situations such as part-time work, job sharing, home employment, and self-employment.

Objective 1.7: Reduce poverty in British Columbia.

Objective 1.8: Reduce the gap between British Columbians at the lowest and highest income levels, to achieve a more equitable income distribution.

Objective 1.9: Increase the safety and security of communities throughout B.C., including:

- increased sense of personal safety and mutual responsibility for safe communities; and,
- reduced crime and interpersonal violence.

Objective 1.10: Increase opportunities to develop positive and supportive interpersonal relationships and social networks, including:

- access to organized and informal community-based sports, recreation, social, arts, and cultural activities;
- opportunities and supports for voluntary activities; and,
- access to self-help and mutual support activities.

Objective 1.11: Increase opportunities and supports for healthy family functioning, including:

- education and supports for effective parenting;
- affordable quality child care and other supports for working parents;
- recognition and supports for unpaid family caregivers; and,
- access to self-help and mutual support resources for families.

Objective 1.12: Increase access to affordable housing that meets household needs, with reasonable choice in tenure, building type, and location, including:

- affordability of home ownership for first time buyers;
- sufficient amount and variety of moderately priced rental housing; and,
- affordable and accessible housing options for individuals with low incomes or other special needs.

Objective 1.13: Increase the range of secure housing options and housing stock for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Objective 1.14: Improve and maintain the design of communities to ensure quality of life for residents, including:

- accessible public places for all persons;
- appropriate transportation infrastructure, including public transportation; and,
- neighbourhoods with appropriate access to services and amenities required for health, security and stability, and protection from hazards that harm quality of life.

Goal 2: Opportunities for all individuals to develop and maintain the capacities and skills needed to thrive and meet life's challenges and to make choices that enhance health.

Objective 2.1: Improve and maintain supports to ensure all young children receive the best possible start in life, including:

- appropriate prenatal and postnatal care;
- effective early childhood nurturing and parenting; and,
- appropriate early childhood stimulation, socialization, and education.

Objective 2.2: Improve and maintain the skills and personal characteristics British Columbians need to participate fully in the social, cultural, and economic life of the province, through learning opportunities and supports to develop:

- a sense of personal effectiveness, self-reliance, and self-esteem;
- skills for acquiring knowledge, thinking critically, solving problems, making informed decisions, communicating effectively, managing life events, and coping with stress;
- awareness of individual rights and a capacity to exercise personal responsibilities as members of society; and,
- a commitment to life-long learning.

Objective 2.3: Improve and maintain the skills and capacities of British Columbians to find productive employment in a competitive labour market, including:

- appropriate employment competencies for youth and young adults, developed within a flexible, accessible formal education system; and,
- capacity of those in the workforce to adapt and respond to changes in skill requirements and labour market demands, through access to education and training opportunities throughout adult life.

Objective 2.4: Improve and maintain individual capacity and supports for making healthy lifestyle choices to enhance personal well-being and reduce health risks by:

- Increasing the percentage of British Columbians who do not smoke;
- Reducing the percentage of British Columbians who use alcohol or drugs inappropriately or excessively;
- Increasing the percentage of British Columbians who regularly participate in healthy physical activity;

- Increasing the percentage of British Columbians who have a healthy diet;
- Increasing the percentage of sexually active British Columbians who use appropriate contraception and safer sex practices; and,
- Increasing the percentage of British Columbians who use appropriate safety practices, e.g., safe driving habits, safe participation in sports, protection from over-exposure to the sun.

Objective 2.5: Increase or maintain the capacity for independent living of persons who require assistance with activities of daily living due to disabilities or limitations in their physical, mental, social, or emotional functioning, including:

- access to necessary supports and services, including recognition of and supports for family and other informal caregivers; and,
- capacity to take responsibility for, or participate in, planning and managing personal supports and services.

Goal 3: A diverse and sustainable physical environment with clean, healthy, and safe air, water and land.

Objective 3.1: Improve and maintain air quality throughout British Columbia.

Objective 3.2: Improve and maintain the quality and safety of water throughout British Columbia.

Objective 3.3: Improve and maintain a sustainable, safe and nutritious food supply for all British Columbians.

Objective 3.4: Improve and maintain the quality of land and soil across British Columbia.

Objective 3.5: Decrease damage to the global atmosphere.

Objective 3.6: Minimize the negative impact of human settlement and activity on the long-term sustainability of natural resources.

Goal 4: An effective and efficient health service system that provides equitable access to appropriate services.

Objective 4.1: Maintain commitment to a health service system that is based on the principles of universality, accessibility, comprehensiveness, portability and public administration.

Objective 4.2: Improve the process of allocating resources for health services across the province, to ensure that it is equitable, understandable, and based on population characteristics and needs.

Objective 4.3: Increase access to services that have been proven cost-effective but are not uniformly or consistently used. Decrease utilization of health services, technologies, and medication which the evidence indicates are inappropriate, ineffective, or over-utilized.

Goal 5: Improved health for Aboriginal peoples.

Although considerable work towards developing objectives and indicators for this goal has occurred, more discussions are still needed. A process to finalize specific objectives and indicators must include the extensive involvement of Aboriginal peoples, and must complement the other processes and negotiations that are underway concerning Aboriginal health, First Nations self-government, and other key issues. Therefore, no objectives or indicators are being presented at this time.

Goal 6: Reduction of preventable illness, injuries, disabilities, and premature deaths.

Objective 6.1: Reduce cardiovascular disease.

Objective 6.2: Reduce breast cancer, cervical cancer, lung cancer, and melanoma skin cancer.

Objective 6.3: Reduce respiratory disease.

Objective 6.4: Reduce or maintain current very low levels of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Objective 6.5: Reduce cases of active tuberculosis.

Objective 6.6: Reduce HIV infection rates.

Objective 6.7: Reduce sexually transmitted diseases.

Objective 6.8: Reduce the incidence and impact of chronic disabling conditions.

Objective 6.9: Reduce unintentional injuries and premature deaths.

Objective 6.10: Reduce injuries and deaths from interpersonal violence and abuse.

Objective 6.11: Reduce deaths from use of illegal drugs.

Objective 6.12: Reduce waterborne and foodborne diseases.

Objective 6.13: Reduce neural tube defects.

Objective 6.14: Reduce the negative impact of mental illness.

Objective 6.15: Reduce suicides.

Objective 6.16: Reduce the incidence and spread of infectious diseases, particularly emerging infectious diseases, through improved surveillance.

Source: *Health Goals for British Columbia*. B.C. Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors, December 1997.

Copies of the *Health Goals* document are available from:

Office of the
Provincial Health Officer
B.C. Ministry of Health
1810 Blanshard Street, Rm 3002
Telephone (250) 952-0876
Facsimile (250) 952-0877
http://www.hlth.gov.bc.ca/pho/

Appendix II

Summary Tables: Use of Provincial Health Goals in Ministry Performance Plans

The tables in this Appendix are the result of a review of ministry performance plans for the fiscal year 2000/2001. Analysis was carried out by the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and was based solely on the language used in the performance plans.

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TABLE II.1: Use of Provincial Health Goals in Ministry Performance Plans 2000/2001

Ministry	*Are health goals concepts* reflected in the ministry's vision and/or mission statements?* Goal 1 Living and working conditions	Goal 2 Individual capacities, skills, and choices	Goal 3 Physical environment	Goal 4 Health services	Goal 5 Aboriginal health	Goal 6 Disease and injury prevention	*Are B.C.'s health goals specifically referenced in the Performance Plan?*
Aboriginal Affairs	•				•		
Agriculture, Food & Fisheries	•		•				
Children and Families	•	•					•
Education	•	•					
Energy and Mines	•		•				
Finance							
Health	•		•	•			•
Multiculturalism	•						
Small Business	•	•					
Transportation & Highways	•						

* broad definition of health and its determinants.

TABLE II.2: Use of Provincial Health Goals in Ministry Performance Plans 2000/2001

Do program objectives and performance measures refer to health deficits, health determinants, and desired health outcomes, as reflected in the provincial health goals?

Ministry	Goal 1 Living and working conditions	Goal 2 Individual capacities, skills, and choices	Goal 3 Physical environment	Goal 4 Health services	Goal 5 Aboriginal health	Goal 6 Disease and injury prevention
Aboriginal Affairs	●	●			●	
Advanced Education	●	●				
Agriculture, Food & Fisheries	●	●	●		●	●
Attorney General	●					
Children and Families	●	●			●	●
Community Development	●					
Education	●	●			●	●
Employment & Investment	●					
Energy and Mines	●		●		●	●
Environment	●	●	●			
Finance						
Forests	●		●			
Health	●	●		●	●	●
Labour	●					
Multiculturalism	●	●				
Municipal Affairs	●					
Small Business	●	●	●			
Social Development	●					
Transportation & Highways	●		●		●	●
Women's Equality	●					

TABLE II.1: Use of Provincial Health Goals in Ministry Performance Plans 2000/2001

Ministry	*Are health goals concepts* reflected in the ministry's vision and/or mission statements?* Goal 1 Living and working conditions	Goal 2 Individual capacities, skills, and choices	Goal 3 Physical environment	Goal 4 Health services	Goal 5 Aboriginal health	Goal 6 Disease and injury prevention	*Are B.C.'s health goals specifically referenced in the Performance Plan?*
Aboriginal Affairs	●				●		
Advanced Education		●					
Agriculture, Food & Fisheries	●		●				
Attorney General	●						
Children and Families	●	●					●
Community Development	●	●					
Education	●	●					
Employment & Investment	●						
Energy and Mines	●		●				
Environment	●		●				
Finance							
Forests	●		●				
Health	●		●	●			●
Labour	●						
Multiculturalism	●						
Municipal Affairs	●						
Small Business	●	●					
Social Development	●	●					
Transportation & Highways	●						
Women's Equality	●					●	

* broad definition of health and its determinants.

TABLE II.2: Use of Provincial Health Goals in Ministry Performance Plans 2000/2001

Do program objectives and performance measures refer to health deficits, health determinants, and desired health outcomes, as reflected in the provincial health goals?

Ministry	Goal 1 Living and working conditions	Goal 2 Individual capacities, skills, and choices	Goal 3 Physical environment	Goal 4 Health services	Goal 5 Aboriginal health	Goal 6 Disease and injury prevention
Aboriginal Affairs	●	●			●	
Advanced Education	●	●			●	
Agriculture, Food & Fisheries	●	●	●		●	●
Attorney General	●				●	●
Children and Families	●	●			●	●
Community Development	●					
Education	●	●			●	●
Employment & Investment	●	●	●			
Energy and Mines	●		●		●	●
Environment	●	●	●		●	
Finance						
Forests	●		●		●	
Health	●	●		●	●	●
Labour	●					●
Multiculturalism	●	●				
Municipal Affairs	●		●			●
Small Business	●	●	●			
Social Development	●	●				
Transportation & Highways	●		●		●	●
Women's Equality	●	●		●		●

Appendix III

Examples of Programs, Projects, and Initiatives that Support the Health Goals

In February 2000, the Provincial Health Officer contacted the ministries that sit on the Deputy Ministers' Committee on Social Policy and selected other ministries that had direct health goals involvement. Those ministries were asked to provide examples of programs, projects, or strategic initiatives that support the goals. In December 2000, all ministries were given an opportunity to provide comments on the first draft of this report. This Appendix contains a list of all examples submitted, either as a result of the initial request or as feedback on the first draft.

Examples of Ministry Initiatives that Support the Provincial Health Goals

Aboriginal Affairs	• First Citizens' Fund • National Aboriginal Youth Strategy
Agriculture, Food and Fisheries	• Agriculture Land Reserve • Buy BC Program • "Eat Well, Live Well" Program, in cooperation with Ministry of Health • BC Sharing Program • Integrated Pest Management Program • Sterile Insect Release Program • BC Farmers' Markets • 4-H Program • *Agri-Food Choice and Quality Act*
Attorney General	• List of ministry strategies that support health goals 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and objectives 1.2, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.9, 1.11, 1.12, 1.14, 2.4, 2.5, 4.1, 4.2, 6.4, 6.6, 6.7, 6.10, 6.11, 6.14, 6.15, 6.16 • Aboriginal justice framework
Children and Families	• Strategic Plan for Aboriginal Services • Measuring Our Success: A Framework for Evaluating Population Outcomes • Examples of MCF initiatives, programs, and activities that contribute to the health goals

Examples of Ministry Initiatives that Support the Provincial Health Goals

Community Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers	• Involve BC • Toward Revitalized, Resilient and Sustainable Communities across BC: A Discussion Paper on the Development of a Policy and Legislative Framework for Regional and Community Development
Education	• Support to Fetal Alcohol and Fetal Alcohol Effects initiatives • *Personal Planning K-7* and *Career and Personal Planning 8-12* curricula • Resources for teachers on chronic health conditions and interventions for students affected by attention deficit disorder, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and acquired brain injury • Safe Schools Initiative • Early Intervention for Student Success Initiative
Employment and Investment	• Infrastructure Works Programs (these and other ministry activities address provincial health objectives 1.1, 1.3, 1.7, 1.9, 1.10, 1.14, 1.12, 2.3, 2.4, 3.2, 3.5, and 3.6)
Environment, Lands and Parks	• Environmental Trends in British Columbia 2000 • Green Economy Initiative
Health	• Health Goals for British Columbia Women • Determinants of Health Check-list: A Simple Tool to Support Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Planning • Provincial Response to Feed Our Future – Secure Our Health

Examples of Ministry Initiatives that Support the Provincial Health Goals

Small Business, Tourism and Culture	• Physical Inactivity Strategy (http://www.sport.gov.bc.ca/pas.html) • Youth Business & Entrepreneurship Training Program (YouBET!) • SportSafe (a modular program addressing social issues in sport)
Social Development and Economic Security	• Action Against Poverty in British Columbia • BC Benefits: The First Three Years • Affordable Housing in Diverse and Sustainable Communities • Summary descriptions of initiatives that can be considered "best practices" towards achieving B.C.'s health goals
Transportation and Highways	• Increased investment in shoulder barriers along highways, to reduce traffic accidents (provincial health goal 6) • Use of alternative fuels in ministry transportation units (goal 3) • Support to pavement recycling program (goal 3) • Use of less energy-intensive materials in producing concrete (goal 3)
Women's Equality	• Gender Lens • Inventory of ministry initiatives that pertain to health goals 1, 2, 4, 5, 6